Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111         Attorney Docket # A8645 /
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/750,432                ST9-99-134US2

## REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging this divisional Application's claim for priority to U.S. Application 09/612,534.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 28, 2000.

### Status of the Application

Claims 1-36 are all the claims pending in the Application. Claims 1-36 stand rejected. Several of the pending claims are amended to correct typographical or grammatical errors herein. These amendments are all intended to be non-limiting, so no estoppel should apply.

### Specification Objection

The Examiner has indicated an objection to the specification on the *Office Action's* summary page. However, the Examiner has not indicated any particular objection to the specification in the detailed portion of the *Office Action.* Thus, Applicant believes that the *Office Action's* summary page is incorrect, and respectfully requests its correction.

### Indefiniteness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-7, 10, 11, 17, 18, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected by clarifying, non-limiting, claim amendments herein. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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### *Rejection Under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-36 as being unpatentable over claims 1-76 of US Application No. 09/614,534 and claims 1-19 of U.S. Application 09/750,475 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Regarding 09/614,534, Applicant respectfully submits that based on the present entry in the USPTO PAIR system it is believed that this reference was not invented by Applicant, nor is it assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Thus, no double patenting rejection in view of this Application is proper. To the extent that the indication of 09/614,534 may be a typographical error, Applicant withholds further comment due to this rejection's provisional nature.

Regarding 09/750,475, Applicant withholds further comment due to this rejection's provisional nature.
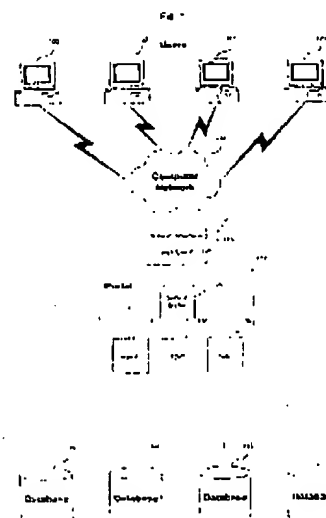
### *Claim Rejection*

The Examiner has rejected: (1) claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Polizzi et al.* (US 2002/0023158; hereinafter *"Polizzi"*); and (2) claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) as being unpatentable over *Polizzi*. These rejections are respectfully traversed, at least because *Polizzi* does not teach or suggest "providing a port module to interface between the interface module and the data source," as recited in claims 1 and 14, and as similarly required by claim 25.
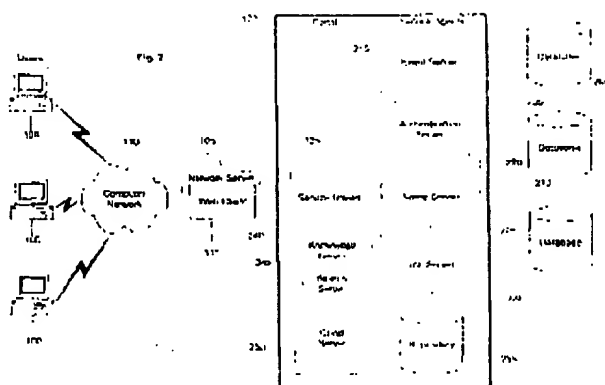
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In FIG. 1, which is cited by the Examiner (and reproduced

to the right for convenience), *Polizzi* discloses a portal system 120

where users 100 are connected through network 110 and network

interface 105 (which includes web client 115). In this portal

system 120, service broker 125 controls access thereto, while

service agents 130 perform specific tasks therein, such as

operating as a name server or an authentication server (see FIG. 2

and pars. 0034, 0035 and 0036). The portal system 120 is

connected to back end databases 135, 140, 145 and 150 (par.

0021).

Additionally, *Polizzi* discloses a

more detailed embodiment in FIG. 2, which

is reproduced to the right for convenience.

In FIG. 2, *Polizzi* discloses that service

broker 125, *inter alia*: (1) controls access to

portal system 120; (2) controls dispositions

of jobs to service agents in portal system 120; and (3) prevents users from determining the actual

location of the components of portal system 120. (pars. 0024 and 0036).

In portal system 120, job server 230 executes jobs, event scheduler 215 schedules such

jobs, authentication server determines if a user 100 should be granted access to portal 120, and

name server 225 stores agent information (pars. 0023 and 0024). A user 100 may create a job,

and it then may be stored in portal system 120 so that the user 100 may again run or edit the job,

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or so other users 100 can run the job (par 0052). Further, this job can be processed by the portal

system 120 either on an ad-hoc basis or according to a predetermined schedule by user request

(pars. 0026, 0061).

Thus, in sum, *Polizzi* discloses a computer system that provides a general framework for

storing and running jobs to present data in a formatted output for a user. Applicant respectfully

submits that this system is quite different from the claimed invention, which is directed, *inter*

*alia*, to the specific modular connections and relationships in a database manager.

*Independent Claims 1, 14 and 25*

Applicant respectfully submits that *Polizzi* fails to teach or suggest a port module "to

interface between the interface module and the data source," as recited in claims 1, 14 and 25.

Specifically, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position that the

recited "port module," "interface module" and "data source" are disclosed by agents 130,

network interface 105 and databases 135, 140, 145 and 150 of FIG. 1 of *Polizzi*, respectively. As

discussed above, agents 130 are stand alone modules provided to perform specific tasks within

portal 120, such as operating as a name server 225 or authentication server 220 (FIG. 2, pars.

0035 and 0040). Although agents 130 are disclosed as being capable of retrieving data from

databases 135, etc. for use in their respective tasks, there is no teaching or suggestion that these

agents 130 provide any "interface" between databases 135, 140, 145 and 150 and network

interface 105. Rather, they provide only job results to service broker 125.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that *Polizzi* fails to teach or suggest: (1)

"selectively establishing an arbitrary set of user-selectable parameters to reflect a status of a

connection between the remote application and the data source," as recited in independent claim

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14; or "a log file comprising parameters arbitrarily selectable by a user to reflect a status of a

connection between the remote application and the data source desired to be monitored by a

user," as recited in independent claim 25.

Specifically, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position that these

features are disclosed in par. 0061 of *Polizzi*. As discussed above, par. 0061 (along with pars.

0052-0060) describe the attributes of a user-defined job which is stored in *Polizzi's* portal system

120. In particular, par. 0061 describes how the stored job may be scheduled to run at a future

time. However, this stored data describing a job is not equivalent to parameters that "reflect a

status of a connection between the remote application and the data source," as recited in

independent claims 14 and 25. The user-specified timing of when to run a job does not define

any particular status connection to databases 135, etc. or 200 etc. Applicant respectfully submits

that there is no teaching or suggestion in *Polizzi* of any particular monitoring or ability to define

a particular "connection" between a remote application and the databases 135, etc. or 200 etc.,

and as discussed above, no teaching or suggestion that a connection between a remote

application and the databases 135, etc. or 200 etc. is ever provided.

Further, *Polizzi* specifically indicates that service broker 125 deliberately obscures

information about its internal functions, *e.g.*, which database 200, 205, 210 is used (par. 0036).

Thus. *Polizzi* teaches directly away from the provision of information regarding specific internal

connections to its databases 135, etc. or 200 etc.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that

independent claims 1, 14 and 25 are patentable over the applied reference. Further, Applicant

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respectfully submits that rejected dependent claims 2-13, 14-24 and 26-36 are: (1) allowable *at least* by virtue of their dependency; and (2) separately patentable over the applied reference.

For example, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference fails to teach or suggest "selectively establishing a set of parameters to reflect a status of a connection between the remote application and the data source," as recited in claim 2, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 14 and 25.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference fails to teach or suggest: (1) "connecting directly the interface module and the port module for communicating independently from the connection manager in subsequent communications," as recited in claims 4, 15; or (2) that "the connection module is further configured to form a direct interface between the interface module and the port module," as recited in claim 26.

Specifically, the Examiner has cited no portion of *Polizzi* that discloses these features, and therefore has failed to provide the proper support for this rejection. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that no support for this rejection can be found in *Polizzi*, as *Polizzi* never discloses any direct connection between network interface 105 (alleged by the Examiner to correspond to the recited "interface module") and agent 130 (alleged by the Examiner to correspond to the recited "port module"). Rather, all of the disclosed embodiments of *Polizzi* show service broker 125 interposed between network interface 105 and agent 130.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

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## Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-36 are allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all

of the claims 1-36.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a

personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at

the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this

application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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